

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 13, line 27 to page 14, line 4 of the substitute specification with the following.

This invention is directed to novel peptide nucleic acids having at least one conjugate group. Each PNA monomer or polymer has a backbone which is the linear portion of the PNA. The backbone is normally defined from an amino (N) terminus or ~~deravative~~ derivative thereof to a carboxyl (C) terminus or deravative thereof. In some preferred embodiments the backbone has an N terminal end, a C terminal end, a number of amide linkages which is equal to one less than the number of monomer units in the PNA, and a number of internal substituted amine groups which is equal to the number of monomers in the PNA.